

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 01384 251220Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1384

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, CY, US
SUBJECT: CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS: LIKELY POSTPONEMENT OF NICOSIA TALKS

REF: NICOSIA 1351

SUMMARY: AS FORECAST REFTEL, DE CUELLAR SAW DENKTASH MORNING
MAY 25. DENKTASH WENT INTO TIRADE ON GREEK ECONOMIC ACTIONS
AGAINST TURK CYPRIOTS AND SAID IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR
ONAN TO ATTEND MAY 26 NICOSIA NEGOTIATING SESSION UNLESS HE
IS ASSURED DANISH SHIP CAPTAIN WILL BE RELEASED SOON.
DE CUELLAR PUT THIS TO PAPADOPOULOS, WHO SAID DENKTASH
ULTIMATUM WOULD MAKE SHIP CAPTAIN'S RELEASE EVEN MORE DIFFI-
CULT. DE CUELLAR IS NOW ASKING BOTH SIDES TO REFRAIN FROM
PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND HAS EFFECTIVELY POSTPONED MAY 26
MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. GORGE CALLED US AT NOON MAY 25 TO REPORT ON
DE CUELLAR'S EARLY MORNING MEETING WITH DENKTASH AND
SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS. DENKTASH, WITH ONAN AND CHELIK
PRESENT, LAUNCHED INTO LONG TIRADE ABOUT RECENT GREEK
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CYPRIOT ECONOMIC ACTIONS AGAINST TURK CYPRIOTS. HE
MENTIONED ATTEMPTS TO PREVENT ADVERTISING IN UK FOR
KYRENIA HOTELS, GREEK CYPRIOT DENIAL OF FOREIGN
EXCHANGE TO TURK CYPRIOTS AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, ARREST
OF DANISH SHIP CAPTAIN FOR CALLING AT FAMAGUSTA
HARBOR. AFTER 30 MINUTES OF MONOLOGUE TO EFFECT THAT
NEGOTIATIONS COULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT IN THIS ATMOSPHER,

DENKTASH FINALLY SAID HE WOULD NOT FIND IT POSSIBLE TO ALLOW ONAN TO ATTEND THE LEDRA PALACE MEETING MAY 26 UNLESS HE WAS ASSURED THAT THE GOC WOULD RELEASE THE DANISH SHIP CAPTAIN VERY SOON. HE GAVE DE CUELLAR UNTIL NOON MAY 25 TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM.

2. DE CUELLAR THEN VISITED GREEK NEGOTIATOR PAPADOPOULOS. AFTER BEING INFORMED OF MORNING'S DEVELOPMENTS, PAPA-COPOULOS SAID THAT GREEK CYPRIOTS CANNOT ACCEPT TURKISH CYPRIOT EXPROPRIATION OF PROPERTY; THUS "ECONOMIC WARFARE" BY THE GOC AGAINST TURK CYPRIOTS IS LIKELY TO INTENSIFY, NOT RECEDE. PAPADOPOULOS SAID DENKTASH "ULTIMATUM" WILL MAKE THE RELEASE OF THE SHIP CAPTAIN MORE DIFFICULT. HE DID PROMISE TO REFER THE MATTER TO PRESIDENT MAKARIOS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR A DECISION. HE NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD NOT BE IN NICOSIA MAY 25, BUT WOULD BE INCOMMUNICADO ALL DAY AT HIS HOUSE AT THE BEACH. THUS GOC WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACT UNTIL MAY 26. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, PAPADOPOULOS AGREED THAT THE BEST THING WOULD BE FOR DE CUELLAR TO POSTPONE THE MAY 26 MEETING AND PROMISED THAT IN THE INTERIM HE WOULD MAKE NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT THE MATTER.

3. DE CUELLAR THEN CALLED ON CHELIK (BECAUSE DENKTASH WAS NOT AVAILABLE) TO TRY TO PREVENT TURK CYPRIOTS FROM ISSUING AN INFLAMMATORY STATEMENT WHEN NOON DEADLINE PASSED. CHELIK UNDERTOOK ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY TO HOLD ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS UNTIL 0900 MAY 26 AND TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER WITH DENKTASH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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4. IF THEY RECEIVE NO WORD FROM GOC BY MAY 26 DEADLINE (WHICH IS 0800 GREEK CYPRIOT TIME) DE CUELLAR AND GORGE PLAN TO ASK BOTH SIDES TO POSTPONE MAY 26 MEETING TO A CONVENIENT DATE FURING WEEK BEGINNING MAY 30 AND TO REFRAIN FROM PUBLIC STATEMENTS. DE CUELLAR WOULD THEN MAKE BLANK ANNOUNCEMENT TO PRESS ABOUT POSTPONEMENT. GORGE FEARS THAT GOC MAY NOT TAKE EARLY ACTION ON SHIP CAPTAIN AND THAT TURK CYPRIOTS MIGHT SEIZE ON ECONOMIC WARFARE QUESTION TO BREAK OFF NICOSIA TALKS FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD. GORGE ALSO BELIEVES, AND WE CONCUR, THAT THE TWO SIDES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REFRAIN FROM GIVING THE STORY TO THE PRESS.

5. COMMENT: APPARENTLY THE LLOYDS OF LONDON WARNING TO SHIP OWNERS NOT TO CALL AT FAMAGUSTA HAS TURK CYPRIOTS VERY WORRIED. THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF POTATOES IN FAMAGUSTA AWAITING SHIPMENT NOW. FAILURE TO EXPORT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS COULD CAUSE SERIOUS DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR DENKTASH. END COMMENT.

6. FOR LONDON: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON
LLOYDS' WARNING TO SHIPS.
CRAWFORD

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